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Lee et al.

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(54) **SOLAR CELL AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THE SAME**

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H01L 31/0216 (2014.01)
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC H01L 31/00–31/208; Y02E 10/50–10/60
USPC 136/243–265
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A solar cell and a method for manufacturing the same are discussed. The solar cell includes a substrate formed of an n-type crystalline semiconductor, an emitter region of a p-type positioned at a first surface of the substrate, a first dielectric layer positioned on a second surface opposite the first surface of the substrate, second dielectric layers respectively positioned on the emitter region and the first dielectric layer, a third dielectric layer positioned on the second dielectric layer that is positioned on the emitter region, a first electrode which is positioned on the first surface of the substrate and is connected to the emitter region, and a second electrode which is positioned on the second surface of the substrate and is connected to the substrate.

13 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets

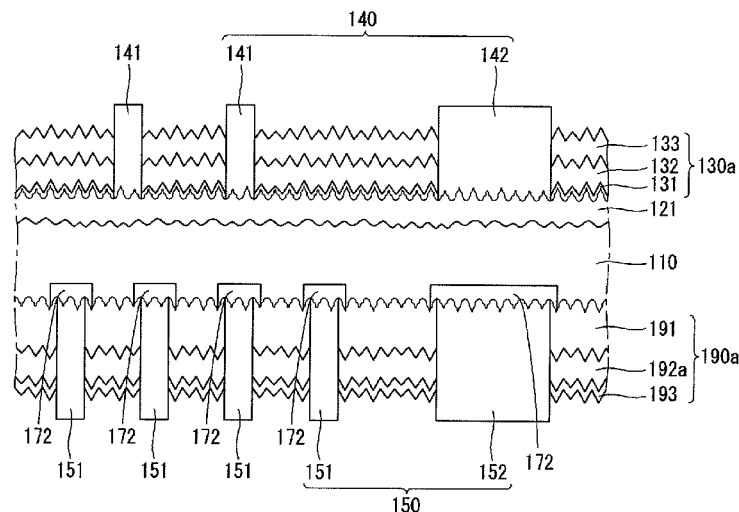


FIG. 1

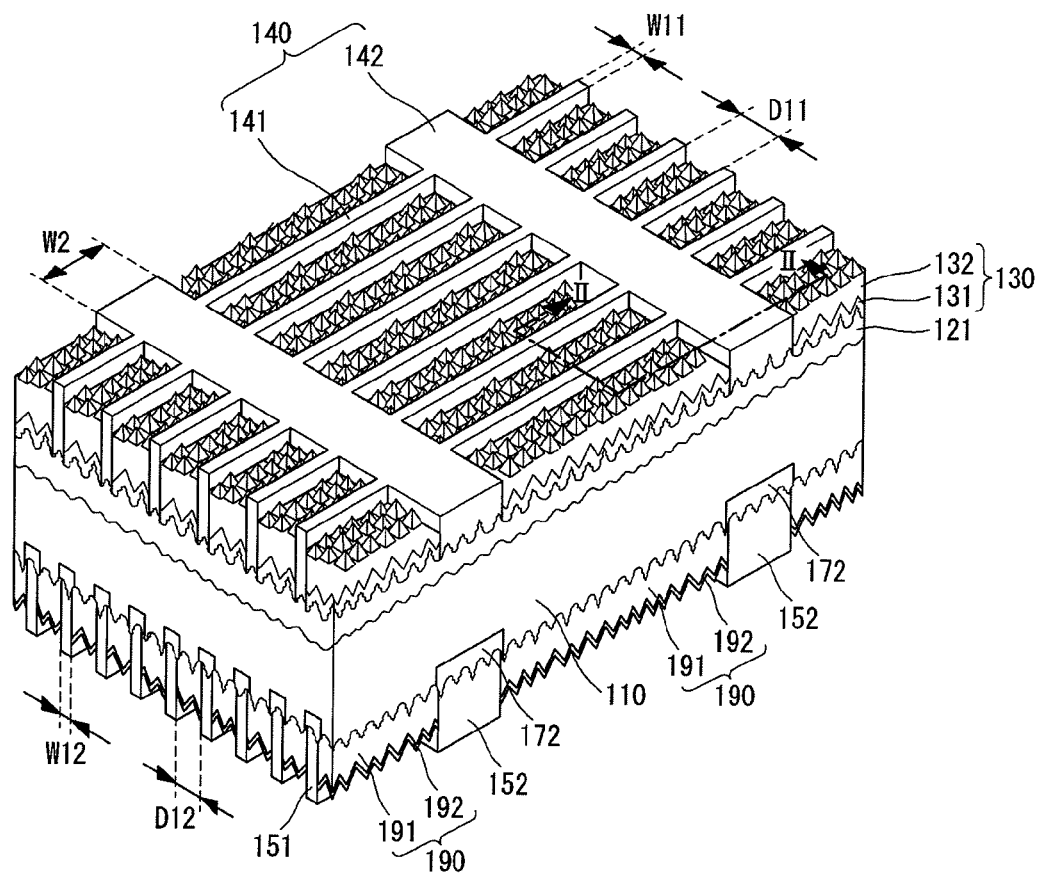


FIG. 2

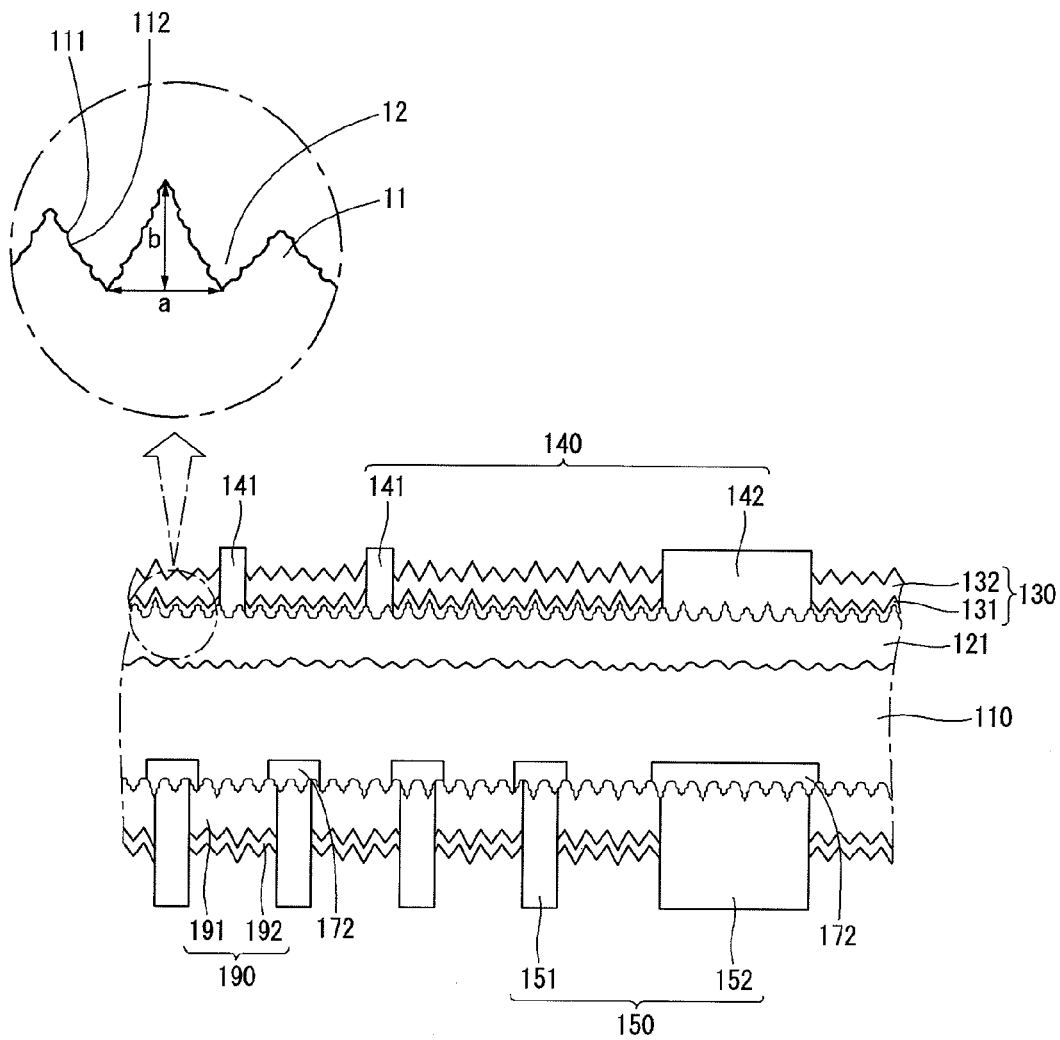


FIG. 3

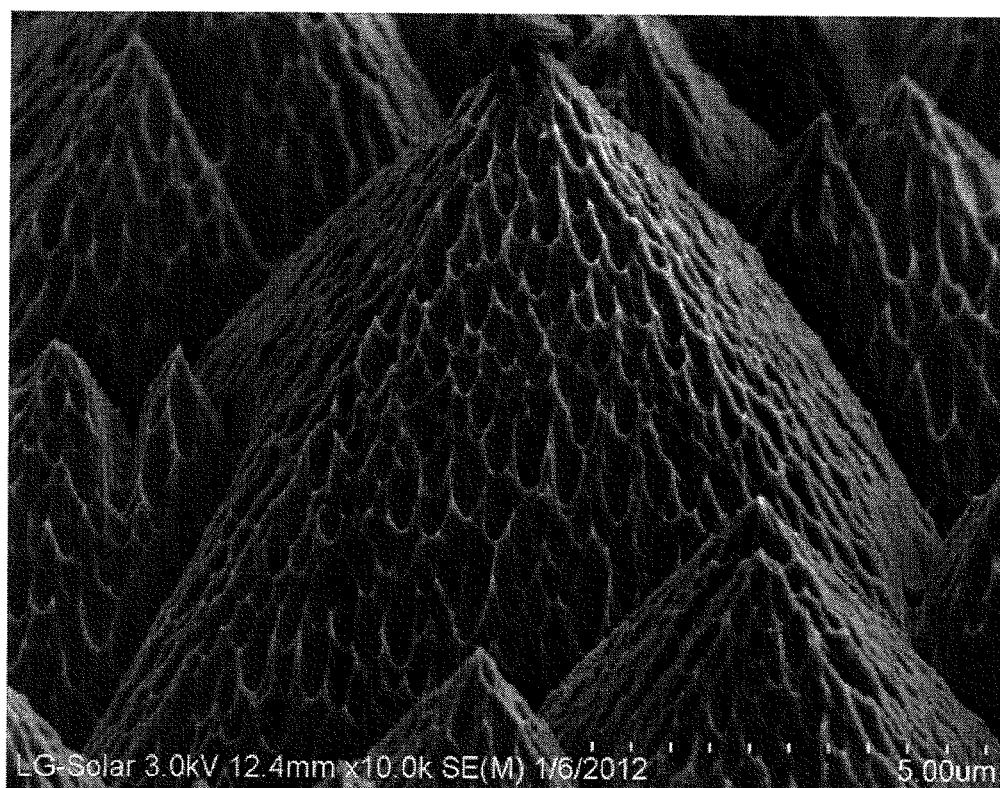


FIG. 4A

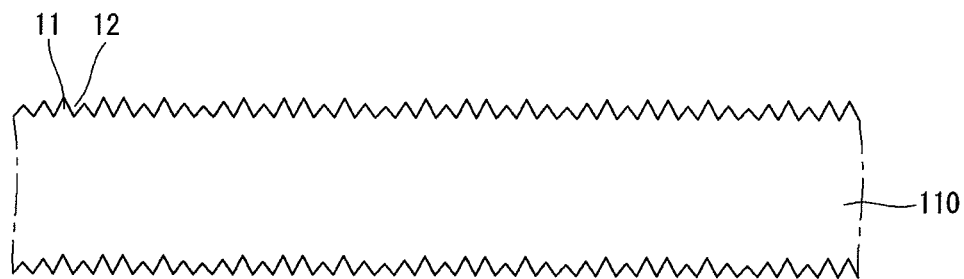


FIG. 4B

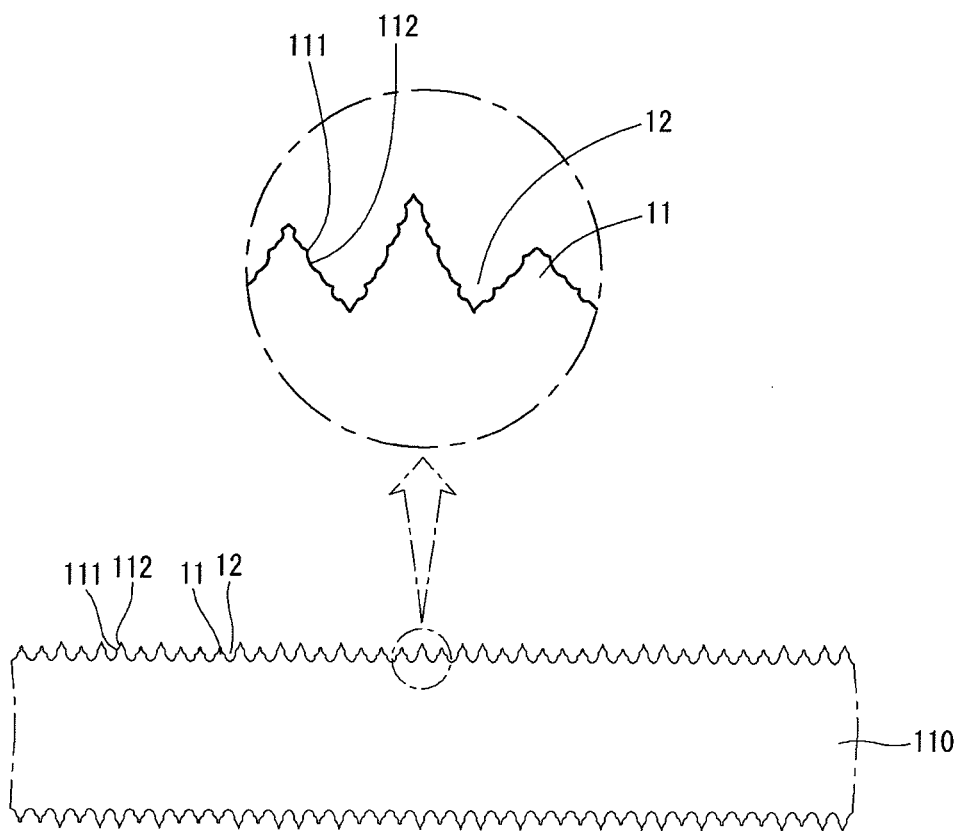


FIG. 4C

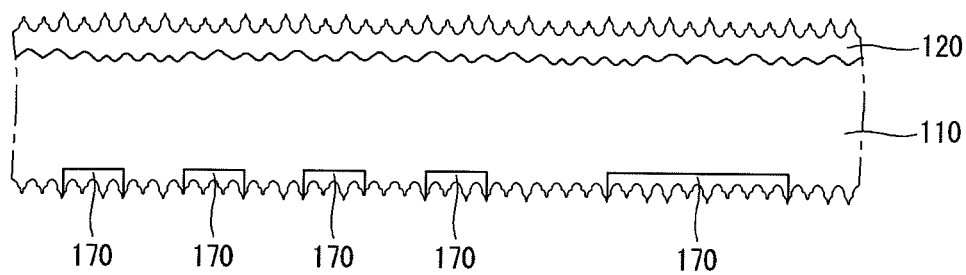


FIG. 4D

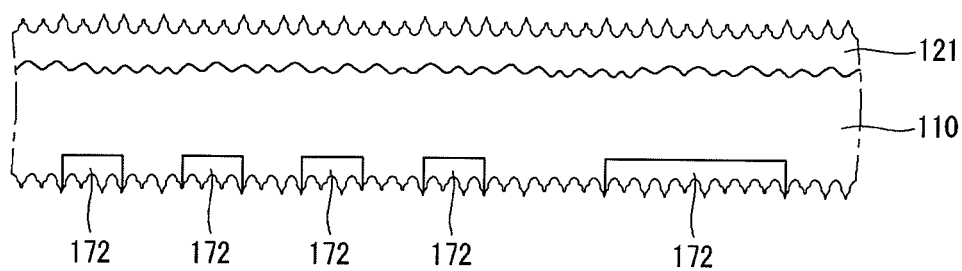


FIG. 4E

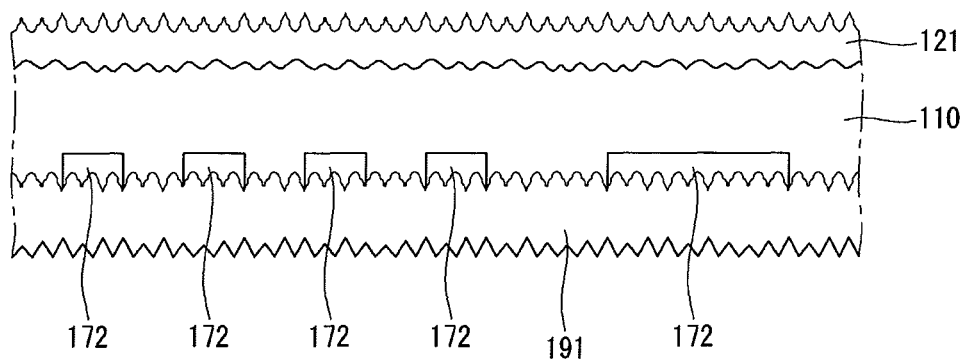


FIG. 4F

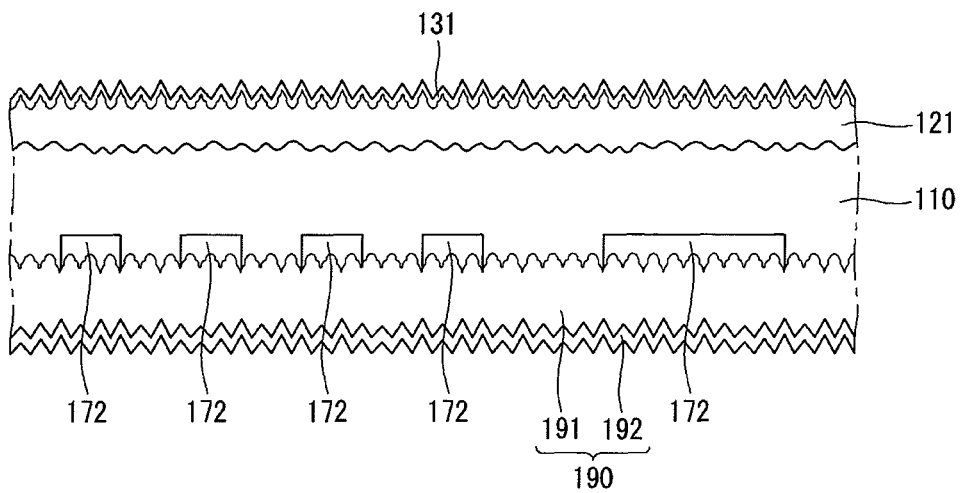


FIG. 4G

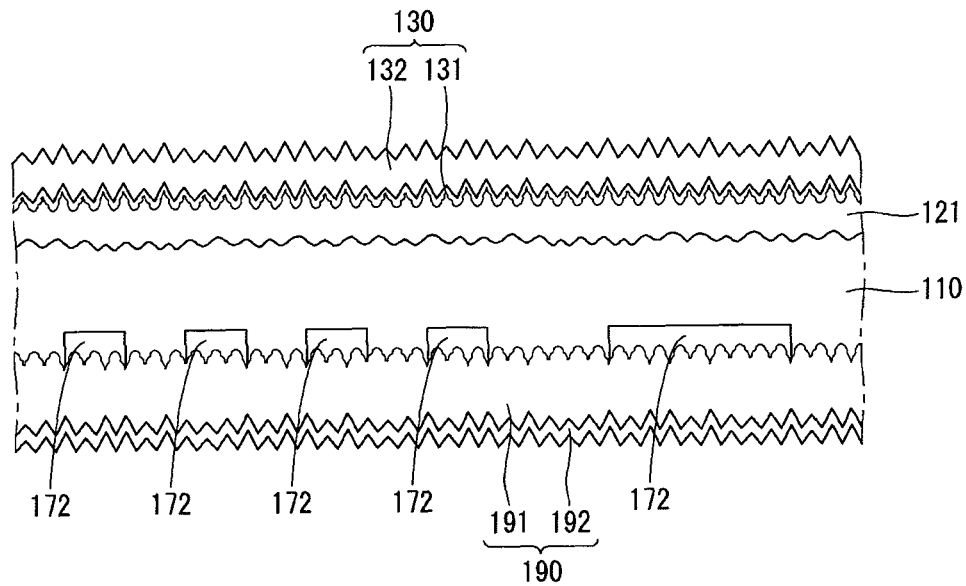


FIG. 4H

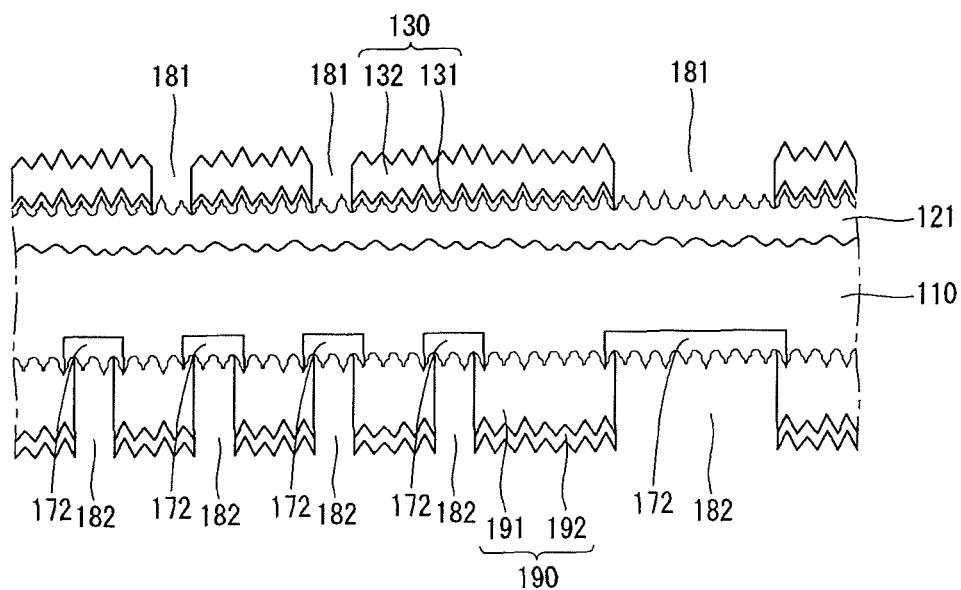


FIG. 5

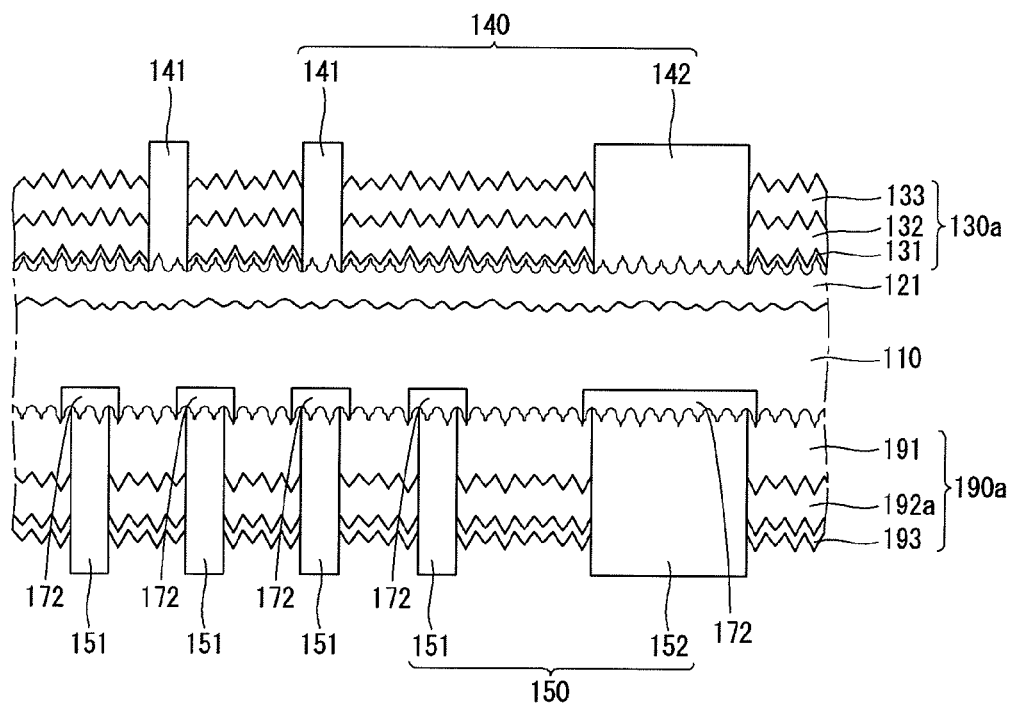
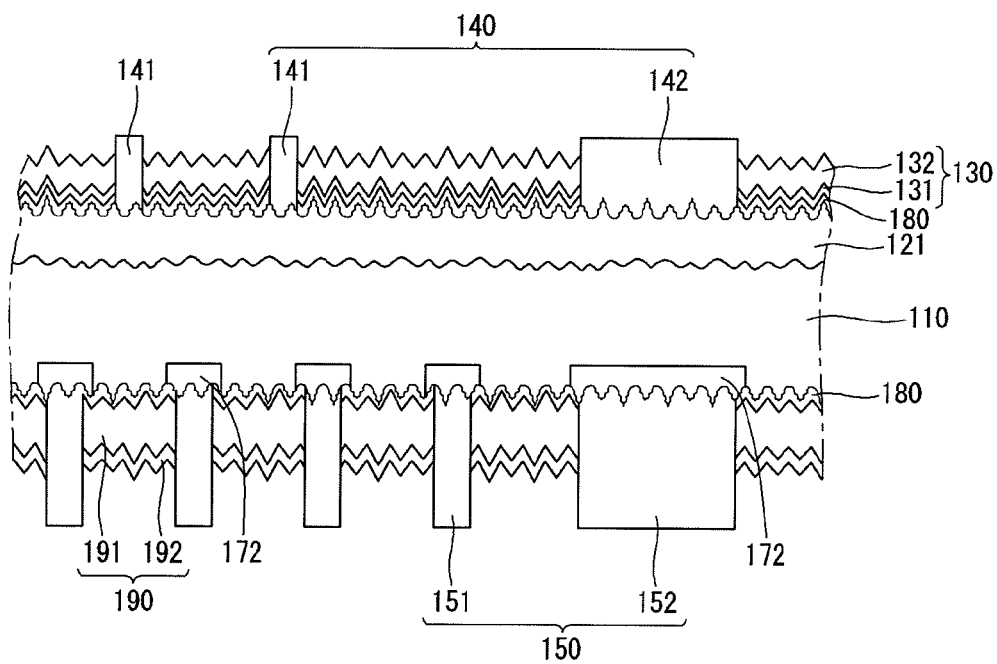
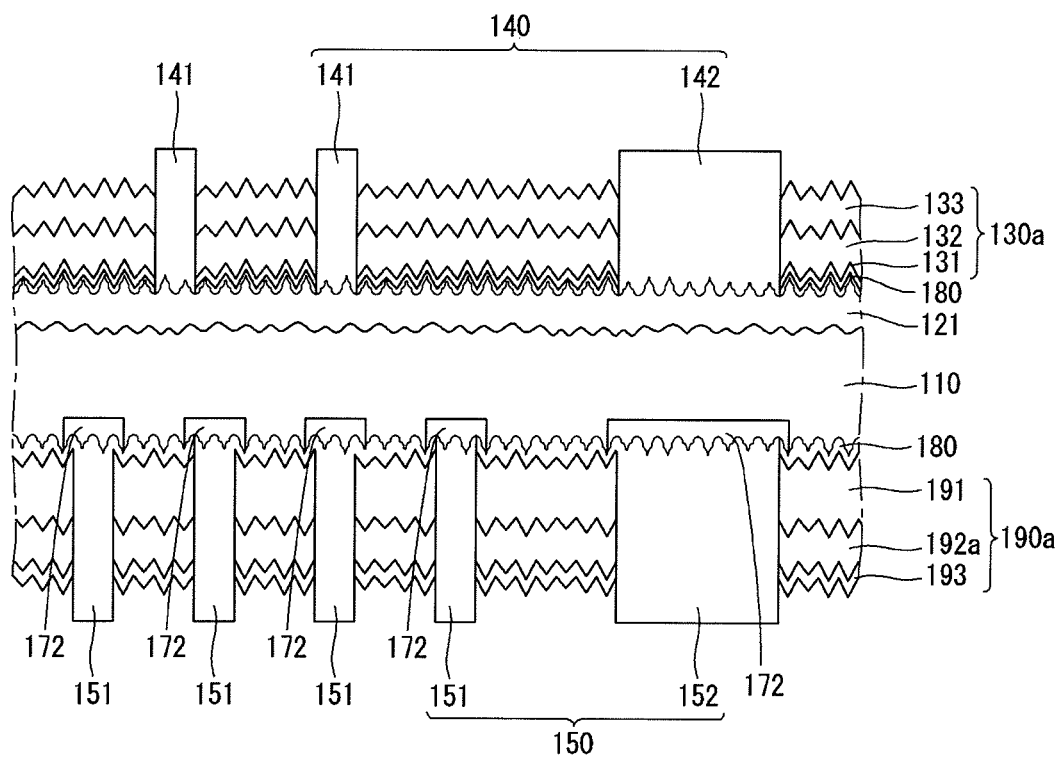


FIG. 6





SOLAR CELL AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THE SAME

This application claims priority to and the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2012-0031644 filed in the Korean Intellectual Property Office on Mar. 28, 2012, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

Embodiments of the invention relate to a solar cell and a method for manufacturing the same.

2. Description of the Related Art

Recently, as existing energy sources such as petroleum and coal are expected to be depleted, interests in alternative energy sources for replacing the existing energy sources are increasing. Among the alternative energy sources, solar cells for generating electric energy from solar energy have been particularly spotlighted.

A solar cell generally includes semiconductor parts, for example, a substrate and an emitter region, which respectively have different conductive types, for example, a p-type and an n-type and thus form a p-n junction, and electrodes respectively connected to the semiconductor parts of the different conductive types.

When light is incident on the solar cell, electrons inside the semiconductor parts become free electrons (hereinafter referred to as 'electrons') by the photoelectric effect. Further, electrons and holes respectively move to the n-type semiconductor (e.g., the emitter region) and the p-type semiconductor (e.g., the substrate) under the influence of the p-n junction of the semiconductor parts. The electrons moving to the emitter region and the holes moving to the substrate are respectively collected by the respective electrodes electrically connected to the emitter region and the substrate. The electrodes are connected to each other using electric wires to thereby obtain electric power.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect, there is a solar cell including a substrate formed of an n-type crystalline semiconductor, an emitter region of a p-type positioned at a first surface of the substrate, a first dielectric layer positioned on a second surface opposite the first surface of the substrate, second dielectric layers respectively positioned on the emitter region and the first dielectric layer, a third dielectric layer positioned on the second dielectric layer that is positioned on the emitter region, a first electrode which is positioned on the first surface of the substrate and is connected to the emitter region, and a second electrode which is positioned on the second surface of the substrate and is connected to the substrate, wherein the emitter region has a first textured surface including a plurality of first protrusions each having a protruding height and a maximum diameter which are within a range of about 5 μm to 10 μm , and wherein each of the plurality of first protrusions has a second textured surface including a plurality of second protrusions each having a protruding height and a maximum diameter which are within a range of about 300 nm to 600 nm.

The first dielectric layer and the third dielectric layer may be formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride. The second dielectric layer may be formed of aluminum oxide.

The second dielectric layer may have a thickness of about 5 nm to 15 nm.

Each of the first dielectric layer and the third dielectric layer may have a thickness of about 70 nm to 100 nm.

The solar cell may further include a hydrogenated silicon oxide layer positioned between the first dielectric layer and the third dielectric layer. The hydrogenated silicon oxide layer may have a thickness of about 50 nm to 100 nm.

The solar cell may further include a silicon oxide layer positioned between the second surface of the substrate and the first dielectric layer. The silicon oxide layer may have a thickness of about 2 nm to 3 nm.

The first surface and the second surface of the substrate may be incident surfaces on which light is incident.

The solar cell may further include a hydrogenated silicon oxide layer positioned on the second dielectric layer that is positioned on the first dielectric layer. The hydrogenated silicon oxide layer may have a thickness of about 50 nm to 100 nm.

The solar cell may further include a silicon oxide layer positioned between the emitter region and the second dielectric layer. The silicon oxide layer may have a thickness of about 2 nm to 3 nm.

Acicular ends of the plurality of second protrusions may point in a parallel direction as vertices of the plurality of first protrusions.

Each of the plurality of second protrusions may have an acicular end, and acicular ends of adjacent second protrusions may be connected by serrated edges.

According to the above-described characteristics of the solar cell, because the surface of the substrate has the first and second textured surfaces, an amount of light incident on the substrate increases. Hence, the efficiency of the solar cell is improved.

Furthermore, because an anti-reflection layer including the plurality of dielectric layers and a passivation layer including the plurality of dielectric layers are respectively formed on a front surface and a back surface of the substrate, a reflection amount of light decreases. Hence, a surface passivation effect is generated at the surface of the substrate, and the efficiency of the solar cell is further improved.

Furthermore, because a field passivation effect is obtained by stacking a layer having negative fixed charges on the n-type substrate, a loss amount of carriers of the solar cell decreases.

In addition, because the problem resulting from a natural oxide layer is reduced by thinly coating the silicon oxide layer on at least one of the front surface and the back surface of the substrate, the efficiency of the solar cell is further improved.

In another aspect, there is a method for manufacturing a solar cell including performing a wet etching process to form a first textured surface on at least one surface of a substrate, performing a dry etching process to form a second textured surface on the first textured surface, and performing an ion implantation process to implant impurity ions into the first textured surface and the second textured surface and performing an activation process to form at least one of an emitter region and a back surface field region.

The wet etching process may be performed using an alkali solution such as isopropyl alcohol (IPA) or potassium hydroxide (KOH).

The first textured surface including a plurality of first protrusions and a plurality of first depressions may be formed through the wet etching process using the alkali solution. A protruding height and a diameter of each of the plurality of first protrusions may be within the range of about 5 μm to 10 μm .

The dry etching process may be performed using a reaction ion etching (RIE) method.

The second textured surface including a plurality of second protrusions and a plurality of second depressions may be

3

formed through the dry etching process using the reaction ion etching method. A protruding height and a diameter of each of the plurality of second protrusions may be within the range of about 300 nm to 600 nm.

The method may further include, after forming the second textured surface, performing the dry etching process to remove a remainder of the substrate.

The first and second textured surfaces may be formed on a first surface of the substrate, and the first and second textured surfaces are formed on a second surface opposite the first surface. In this instance, the emitter region may be formed at the first surface of the substrate, and the back surface field region may be locally formed at the second surface of the substrate.

In the embodiment of the invention, the local formation of the back surface field region indicates that the back surface field region is formed in the same pattern as the plurality of finger electrodes of the second electrode part at the second surface of the substrate.

Accordingly, the back surface field region is locally formed at the second surface of the substrate, unlike the emitter region entirely formed at the first surface of the substrate.

In the embodiment of the invention, the formation of the emitter region at the entire first surface of the substrate indicates that the emitter region is formed at the entire first surface of the substrate except an edge.

The emitter region may be formed by implanting and activating first impurity ions, and the back surface field region may be formed by implanting and activating second impurity ions of a conductive type opposite the first impurity ions. An activation process of the first impurity ions and the second impurity ions may be performed at a temperature of about 1,000° C. to 2,000° C. capable of activating the first impurity ions for about 20 minutes to 60 minutes.

The method may further include performing the activation process to remove damaged portions of the first and second surfaces of the substrate resulting from the dry etching process.

The method may further include forming a first dielectric layer on the second surface of the substrate, simultaneously forming second dielectric layers respectively on the emitter region and the first dielectric layer, forming a third dielectric layer on the second dielectric layer that is positioned on the emitter region, and forming a first electrode part, which includes a plurality of finger electrodes and is connected to the emitter region, and a second electrode part, which includes a plurality of finger electrodes and is connected to the back surface field region.

At least one of the first electrode part and the second electrode part may include at least one bus electrode extending in a direction crossing the finger electrodes.

Each of the first dielectric layer and the third dielectric layer may be formed by depositing hydrogenated silicon nitride at a thickness of about 70 nm to 100 nm. The second dielectric layer may be formed by depositing aluminum oxide at a thickness of about 5 nm to 15 nm using an atomic layer deposition (ALD) method.

The method may further include forming a fourth dielectric layer between the first dielectric layer and the second dielectric layer and on the third dielectric layer. The fourth dielectric layer may be formed by depositing hydrogenated silicon oxide at a thickness of about 50 nm to 100 nm.

The method may further include, before forming the first dielectric layer, forming a fifth dielectric layer on the first and second surfaces of the substrate. The forming of the fifth dielectric layer may include immersing the substrate in a nitric acid solution having a hydrogen ion concentration (pH)

4

of about 2 to 4 for about 5 minutes to 30 minutes to form a silicon oxide layer having a thickness of about 2 nm to 3 nm.

The back surface field region may be formed in the same pattern as the plurality of finger electrodes of the second electrode part.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and together with the description serve to explain the principles of the invention. In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a partial perspective view of a solar cell according to an example embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken along line II-II of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 illustrates a portion of a substrate of the solar cell shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, on which a wet etching process and a dry etching process are performed;

FIGS. 4A to 4H sequentially illustrate a method for manufacturing a solar cell according to an example embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 5 is a partial cross-sectional view of another example of a solar cell according to an example embodiment of the invention; and

FIGS. 6 and 7 are partial cross-sectional views of other examples of a solar cell according to an example embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Reference will now be made in detail to embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein. Wherever possible, the same reference numbers will be used throughout the drawings to refer to the same or like parts. It will be paid attention that detailed description of known arts will be omitted if it is determined that the arts can mislead the embodiments of the invention.

In the drawings, the thickness of layers, films, panels, regions, etc., are exaggerated for clarity. It will be understood that when an element such as a layer, film, region, or substrate is referred to as being "on" another element, it can be directly on the other element or intervening elements may also be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being "directly on" another element, there are no intervening elements present.

Further, it will be understood that when an element such as a layer, film, region, or substrate is referred to as being "entirely" on other element, it may be on the entire surface of the other element and may not be on a portion of an edge of the other element.

Example embodiments of the invention will be described in detail with reference to FIGS. 1 to 7.

A solar cell according to an example embodiment of the invention is described in detail with reference to FIGS. 1 and 2.

As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, a solar cell according to an example embodiment of the invention includes a substrate **110**, an emitter region **121** positioned at a front surface (or a first surface) of the substrate **110**, an anti-reflection layer **130** positioned on the emitter region **121**, a passivation layer **190**

5

positioned on a back surface (or a second surface) opposite the front surface of the substrate **110**, a front electrode part (or a first electrode part) **140** which is positioned on the front surface of the substrate **110**, is connected to the emitter region **121**, and includes a plurality of front electrodes (or a plurality of first electrodes) **141** and a plurality of front bus bars (or a plurality of first bus bars) **142**, a back electrode part (or a second electrode part) **150** which is positioned on the back surface of the substrate **110** and includes a plurality of back electrodes (or a plurality of second electrodes) **151** and a plurality of back bus bars (or a plurality of second bus bars) **152**, and a plurality of back surface field regions **172** positioned under the plurality of back electrodes **151** and the plurality of back bus bars **152** at the back surface of the substrate **110**.

In the embodiment of the invention, light is incident on at least one of the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110**.

The substrate **110** is a semiconductor substrate formed of a semiconductor such as first conductive type silicon, for example, n-type silicon, though not required. The semiconductor used in the substrate **110** is a crystalline semiconductor, such as single crystal silicon and polycrystalline silicon. The n-type substrate **110** is doped with impurities of a group V element such as phosphorus (P), arsenic (As), and antimony (Sb).

As shown in FIGS. 1 to 3, a separate texturing process is entirely performed on the flat front surface of the substrate **110** to form a first textured surface corresponding to an uneven surface or having uneven characteristics, and including a plurality of first protrusions **11** and a plurality of first depressions **12**. In this instance, the emitter region **121** and the anti-reflection layer **130** positioned on the front surface of the substrate **110** have the textured surface.

Each of the first protrusions **11** has a pyramid shape or a similar shape.

In the embodiment of the invention, a diameter (i.e., size) 'a' and a protruding height 'b' of each of the first protrusions **11** may be within the range of several μm , for example, about $5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. An aspect ratio 'b/a' of each first protrusion **11** may be about 1.0 to 1.5. In the embodiment of the invention, the aspect ratio 'b/a' is obtained by dividing the protruding height 'b' of the first protrusion **11** by the diameter 'a' of the first protrusion **11**. The diameter 'a' of the first protrusion **11** is a width of the base of the first protrusion **11**.

Because the plurality of first protrusions **11** are positioned on the front surface of the substrate **110**, an incident area of the substrate **110** increases and a light reflectance decreases due to a plurality of reflection operations resulting from each first protrusion **11**. Hence, an amount of light incident on the substrate **110** increases, and the efficiency of the solar cell is improved.

As shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, a plurality of second protrusions **111** and a plurality of second depressions **112** are formed on the surface of each first protrusion **11**. Thus, the surface of each first protrusion **11** has a second textured surface corresponding to an uneven surface or having uneven characteristics, and including the plurality of second protrusions **111** and the plurality of second depressions **112**.

A diameter (i.e., size) and a protruding height of each of the second protrusions **111** included in each first protrusion **11** are less than the diameter (i.e., size) and the protruding height of each first protrusion **11**.

For example, the diameter and the protruding height of each second protrusion **111** may be within the range of several hundreds of nm. For example, each second protrusion

6

111 may have the maximum diameter and the protruding height of about 300 nm to 600 nm.

Because the surface of each first protrusion **11** has the second textured surface, the incident area of the substrate **110** further increases. Further, because a reflection operation of light is repeatedly performed, an amount of light incident on the substrate **110** further increases.

As described above, the surface of the substrate **110** forms the first textured surface having the first protrusions **11** and the first depressions **12**, and the surface of each first protrusion **11** forms the second textured surface having the second protrusions **111** and the second depressions **112**. Namely, the surface of the substrate **110** has the first and second textured surfaces. Thus, a reflectance (for example, an average weighted reflectance) of light having a wavelength of about 300 nm to 1,100 nm has a small value of about 1% to 10%.

As shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, the first protrusions **11** have a plurality of surfaces that meet at respective vertices that are generally piked. Each of the plurality of surfaces of the first protrusions **11** has a plurality of second protrusions **111** that have acicular ends. Each of the second protrusions **111** are connected to other second protrusions **111** by serrated edges that defined the plurality of depressions **112**. The plurality of second protrusions **111** generally point in a parallel direction as the vertices of the plurality of first protrusions **11**. The plurality of depressions **112** are also generally hollowed out in the parallel direction as the vertices of the plurality of first protrusions **11**.

In the embodiment of the invention, when the substrate **110** is formed of single crystal silicon, the first textured surface **11(12)** may be formed through a wet etching method using an alkali solution such as isopropyl alcohol (IPA) or potassium hydroxide (KOH), and the second textured surface **111(112)** may be formed through a dry etching method such as a reaction ion etching (RIE) method.

The emitter region **121** positioned at the front surface of the substrate **110** is an impurity region doped with impurities of a second conductive type (for example, p-type) opposite the first conductive type (for example, n-type) of the substrate **110**. Thus, the emitter region **121** of the second conductive type forms a p-n junction along with a first conductive type region (for example, an n-type region) of the substrate **110**.

In the embodiment of the invention, the emitter region **121** may have a sheet resistance of about $70\text{ }\Omega/\text{sq}$. to $80\text{ }\Omega/\text{sq}$.

Regarding carriers, for example, electrons and holes produced by light incident on the substrate **110**, the electrons and the holes respectively move to the n-type semiconductor and the p-type semiconductor by a built-in potential difference resulting from the p-n junction between the substrate **110** and the emitter region **121**. Thus, when the substrate **110** is of the n-type and the emitter region **121** is of the p-type, the electrons and the holes move to the substrate **110** and the emitter region **121**, respectively.

When the emitter region **121** is of the p-type, the emitter region **121** may be formed by doping the substrate **110** with impurities of a group III element such as boron (B), gallium (Ga), and indium (In). In this instance, the emitter region **121** may be formed using an ion implantation method.

The anti-reflection layer **130** includes a first anti-reflection layer **131** positioned on the emitter region **121** and a second anti-reflection layer **132** positioned on the first anti-reflection layer **131**.

In the embodiment of the invention, the first anti-reflection layer **131** may be formed of aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3), and the second anti-reflection layer **132** may be formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H).

The first anti-reflection layer **131** formed of aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3) may have a thickness of about 5 nm to 15 nm and a refractive index of about 1.1 to 1.6. The second anti-reflection layer **132** formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H) may have a thickness of about 70 nm to 100 nm and a refractive index of about 2.0 to 2.2.

In this instance, because the refractive index of the first anti-reflection layer **131** adjacent to the substrate **110** is less than the refractive index of the second anti-reflection layer **132** adjacent to air, an anti-reflection effect is reduced by the refractive index of the first anti-reflection layer **131**. It is preferable, but not required, that the thickness of the first anti-reflection layer **131** is much less than the thickness of the second anti-reflection layer **132**, so as to prevent a reduction in the anti-reflection effect.

The first anti-reflection layer **131** formed of aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3) is positioned on the front surface of the substrate **110**, i.e., directly on the emitter region **121** positioned at the front surface of the substrate **110**.

In general, aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3) has the characteristic of negative fixed charges.

Thus, positive fixed charges (i.e., holes) are drawn to the p-type emitter region **121** and electrons are pushed to the back surface of the substrate **110** by the first anti-reflection layer **131** formed of aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3) having negative fixed charges. Namely, a field passivation effect is obtained.

Accordingly, an amount of holes moving to the emitter region **121** further increases by the first anti-reflection layer **131** formed of aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3), and an amount of electrons moving to the emitter region **121** decreases by the first anti-reflection layer **131**. Hence, a recombination of electrons and holes at and around the emitter region **121** is reduced.

Oxygen (O) contained in aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3) for forming the first anti-reflection layer **131** moves to the surface of the substrate **110** abutting on the first anti-reflection layer **131** to thereby perform a passivation function for converting a defect, for example, dangling bonds existing at and around the surface of the substrate **110** into stable bonds.

The first anti-reflection layer **131** formed of aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3) may be formed using an atomic layer deposition (ALD) method having an excellent step coverage.

As described above, the first textured surface **11(12)** using the wet etching method and the second textured surface **111(112)** using the dry etching method are formed on the front surface of the substrate **110**. Therefore, a roughness of the front surface (i.e., the surface of the emitter region **121**) of the substrate **110** abutting on the first anti-reflection layer **131** further increases compared to when only the first textured surface **11(12)** is formed.

If the first anti-reflection layer **131** is formed directly on the emitter region **121** using a deposition method such as a plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) method, the first anti-reflection layer **131** may not be normally coated on the first and second protrusions **11** and **111** and the first and second depressions **12** and **112**. Hence, a non-formation area of the first anti-reflection layer **131** may increase in the first and second textured surfaces of the substrate **110**.

In this instance, a surface passivation effect may be not generated in the non-formation area of the first anti-reflection layer **131**. As a result, an amount of carriers lost at and around the surface of the substrate **110** may increase.

On the other hand, in the embodiment of the invention, the first anti-reflection layer **131** is formed on the emitter region **121** using the atomic layer deposition method having the excellent step coverage. Therefore, the first anti-reflection

layer **131** is normally formed on the first and second protrusions **11** and **111** and the first and second depressions **12** and **112**. Hence, the non-formation area of the first anti-reflection layer **131** decreases in the first and second textured surfaces of the substrate **110**.

Accordingly, because a formation area of the first anti-reflection layer **131** increases in the first and second textured surfaces of the substrate **110**, the surface passivation effect using the first anti-reflection layer **131** is improved. Hence, an amount of carriers lost at and around the surface of the substrate **110** decreases, and the efficiency of the solar cell is improved.

The second anti-reflection layer **132** formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H) is positioned directly on the first anti-reflection layer **131** on the front surface of the substrate **110**.

Hydrogen (H) contained in hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H) for forming the second anti-reflection layer **132** moves to the surface of the substrate **110** via the first anti-reflection layer **131** to thereby perform a passivation function at and around the surface of the substrate **110**.

An amount of carriers lost at and around the surface of the substrate **110** further decreases by the passivation function using both the first and second anti-reflection layers **131** and **132**.

As described above, because the double-layered anti-reflection layer **130** including the first anti-reflection layer **131** formed of aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3) and the second anti-reflection layer **132** formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H) is formed on the front surface of the substrate **110**, the field passivation effect using the fixed charges of the first anti-reflection layer **131** and the surface passivation effect using the first and second anti-reflection layers **131** and **132** are obtained in addition to the anti-reflection effect of light using changes in the refractive indexes of the first and second anti-reflection layers **131** and **132**.

When the thickness of the first anti-reflection layer **131** formed of aluminum oxide is equal to or greater than about 5 nm, the aluminum oxide layer **131** is more uniformly formed and the field passivation effect using the fixed charges of the first anti-reflection layer **131** is more stably obtained. When the thickness of the first anti-reflection layer **131** is equal to or less than about 15 nm, manufacturing time and cost of the first anti-reflection layer **131** are reduced without a reduction in the anti-reflection effect resulting from the refractive index of the first anti-reflection layer **131**.

When the thickness of the second anti-reflection layer **132** formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride is equal to or greater than about 70 nm, the silicon nitride layer **132** is more uniformly formed and the surface passivation effect using hydrogen (H) is more stably obtained. When the thickness of the second anti-reflection layer **132** is equal to or less than about 100 nm, manufacturing time and cost of the second anti-reflection layer **132** are reduced without a reduction in the field passivation effect using silicon nitride having positive fixed charges.

Each of the plurality of back surface field regions **172** positioned at the back surface of the substrate **110** is a region that is more heavily doped than the substrate **110** with impurities of the same conductive type (for example, the n-type) as the substrate **110**.

The back surface field regions **172** abut on the back electrodes **151** and the back bus bars **152** positioned on the back surface of the substrate **110**, and are selectively or locally positioned at the back surface of the substrate **110**.

Hence, the back surface field regions **172** are not positioned between the adjacent back electrodes **151**, between the

back electrodes **151** and the back bus bars **152**, and between the adjacent back bus bars **152**.

A potential barrier is formed by a difference between impurity concentrations of the first conductive type region (for example, the n-type region) of the substrate **110** and the back surface field regions **172**. Hence, the potential barrier prevents or reduces holes from moving to the back surface field regions **172** used as a moving path of electrons and makes it easier for electrons to move to the back surface field regions **172**.

Thus, the back surface field regions **172** reduce an amount of carriers lost by a recombination and/or a disappearance of the electrons and the holes at and around the back surface of the substrate **110** and accelerate a movement of desired carriers (for example, electrons), thereby increasing an amount of carriers moving to the back electrode part **150**.

Because the impurity concentration of the back surface field regions **172** is higher than the impurity concentration of the substrate **110**, the conductivity of the back surface field regions **172** abutting on the back electrode part **150** is greater than the conductivity of the substrate **110**. Hence, a movement of carriers from the back surface field regions **172** to the back electrode part **150** is easily carried out.

The passivation layer **190** includes a first passivation layer **191** positioned directly on the back surface of the substrate **110** and a second passivation layer **192** positioned directly on the first passivation layer **191**.

The first passivation layer **191** may be formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H), and the second passivation layer **192** may be formed of aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃).

In the embodiment of the invention, the first passivation layer **191** and the second anti-reflection layer **132** may be simultaneously formed through the same process, or the second passivation layer **192** and the first anti-reflection layer **131** may be simultaneously formed through the same process.

Hence, the first passivation layer **191** may be formed of the same material as the second anti-reflection layer **132** and thus may have the same characteristics, for example, thickness, properties, component, composition (or composition ratio), refractive index, etc., as the second anti-reflection layer **132**. Further, the second passivation layer **192** may be formed of the same material as the first anti-reflection layer **131** and thus may have the same characteristics, for example, thickness, properties, component, composition (or composition ratio), refractive index, etc., as the first anti-reflection layer **131**.

More specifically, the first passivation layer **191** formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H) may have a thickness of about 70 nm to 100 nm and a refractive index of about 2.0 to 2.2. The second passivation layer **192** formed of aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃) may have a thickness of about 5 nm to 15 nm and a refractive index of about 1.1 to 1.6.

Because the first passivation layer **191** formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H) is positioned on the back surface field regions **172** positioned directly on the back surface of the substrate **110**, the surface passivation function using hydrogen (H) is performed. Hence, an amount of carriers lost at and around the back surface of the substrate **110** decreases.

Hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H) has the characteristic of positive fixed charges opposite aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃).

In the embodiment of the invention, the substrate **110** is of the n-type, and the first passivation layer **191**, which is formed directly on the back surface of the substrate **110** using silicon nitride, has the characteristic of positive fixed charges. Hence, negative charges (i.e., electrons) moving to the first passivation layer **191** have a polarity opposite the first passivation layer **191** formed of silicon nitride. As a result, the electrons

are drawn to the first passivation layer **191** because of the positive polarity of the first passivation layer **191**. On the other hand, positive charges (i.e., holes) have the same polarity as the first passivation layer **191** and thus are pushed to the front surface of the substrate **110** opposite the first passivation layer **191** because of the positive polarity of the first passivation layer **191**.

Hence, when the first passivation layer **191** is formed directly on the back surface of the n-type substrate **110** using hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H), an amount of electrons moving to the back surface of the substrate **110** further increases because of the influence of positive fixed charges. Further, the recombination of the electrons and the holes at and around the back surface of the substrate **110** is reduced.

The second passivation layer **192**, which is formed on the first passivation layer **191** using aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃), prevents hydrogen (H) contained in the first passivation layer **191** from moving to the back electrode part **150** opposite the front surface of the substrate **110** because of heat applied when the solar cell is manufactured. As a result, the surface passivation effect of the back surface of the substrate **110** using hydrogen (H) contained in the first passivation layer **191** is improved.

As described above, the double-layered passivation layer **190** including the first passivation layer **191** formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H) and the second passivation layer **192** formed of aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃) is formed on the back surface of the substrate **110**, in the same manner as the double-layered anti-reflection layer **130** positioned on the front surface of the substrate **110**. Hence, the surface passivation effect of the back surface of the substrate **110** is improved.

It is preferable, but not required, that the thickness of the first passivation layer **191** is greater than the thickness of the second passivation layer **192** positioned on the first passivation layer **191**, so that the second passivation layer **192** having the negative fixed charges does not adversely affect the first passivation layer **191** having the positive fixed charges. Further, the thickness of the first passivation layer **191** may be greater than the thickness of the second anti-reflection layer **132** on the front surface of the substrate **110**.

Accordingly, if necessary, the thickness of the hydrogenated silicon nitride layer (i.e., the second anti-reflection layer **132**) positioned on the front surface of the substrate **110** may be different from the thickness of the silicon nitride layer (i.e., the first passivation layer **191**) positioned on the back surface of the substrate **110**. In this instance, the silicon nitride layer (i.e., the second anti-reflection layer **132**) positioned on the front surface of the substrate **110** may have the thickness of about 90 nm, and the silicon nitride layer (i.e., the first passivation layer **191**) positioned on the back surface of the substrate **110** may have the thickness of about 100 nm.

When light is incident on the back surface of the substrate **110**, a refractive index in going from air to the substrate **110** increases. Therefore, a reflection amount of light incident on the back surface of the substrate **110** decreases, and an amount of light absorbed in the substrate **110** increases. Hence, when light is incident on the back surface of the substrate **110**, the passivation layer **190** serves as an anti-reflection layer.

The plurality of front electrodes **141** of the front electrode part **140** are connected to the emitter region **121**, and the plurality of front bus bars **142** of the front electrode part **140** are connected to the front electrodes **141** as well as the emitter region **121**.

The front electrodes **141** are electrically and physically connected to the emitter region **121** and are separated from

11

one another. The front electrodes **141** extend parallel to one another in a fixed direction. The front electrodes **141** collect carriers (for example, holes) moving to the emitter region **121**.

The front bus bars **142** are electrically and physically connected to the emitter region **121** and extend parallel to one another in a direction crossing the front electrodes **141**.

The front bus bars **142** have to collect not only carriers (for example, holes) moving from the emitter region **121** but also carriers collected by the front electrodes **141** crossing the front bus bars **142** and have to move the collected carriers in a desired direction. Thus, a width of each front bus bar **142** may be greater than a width of each front electrode **141**.

In the embodiment of the invention, the front bus bars **142** are positioned on the same level layer as the front electrodes **141** and are electrically and physically connected to the front electrodes **141** at crossings of the front electrodes **141** and the front bus bars **142**.

Accordingly, as shown in FIG. 1, the plurality of front electrodes **141** have a stripe shape extending in a transverse (or longitudinal) direction, and the plurality of front bus bars **142** have a stripe shape extending in a direction crossing the front electrodes **141**, for example, in a longitudinal (or transverse) direction. Hence, the front electrode part **140** has a lattice shape on the front surface of the substrate **110**.

The front bus bars **142** are connected to an external device and output the collected carriers to the external device.

The front electrode part **140** including the front electrodes **141** and the front bus bars **142** is formed of at least one conductive material, for example, silver (Ag).

The plurality of back electrodes **151** of the back electrode part **150** are positioned on the back surface field regions **172** and directly abut on the back surface field regions **172**. The back electrodes **151** are separated from one another and extend in a fixed direction in the same manner as the front electrodes **141**. In this instance, the back electrodes **151** extend in the same direction as the front electrodes **141**. The back electrodes **151** collect carriers (for example, electrons) moving to the back surface field regions **172**.

The plurality of back bus bars **152** of the back electrode part **150** are positioned on the back surface field regions **172** and abut on the back surface field regions **172**. The back bus bars **152** extend parallel to one another in a direction crossing the back electrodes **151**. In this instance, the back bus bars **152** extend in the same direction as the front bus bars **142**. The back bus bars **152** may be positioned opposite the front bus bars **142** with the substrate **110** interposed between them.

The back bus bars **152** collect carriers (for example, electrons) collected by the back electrodes **151** crossing the back bus bars **152** and move the collected carriers in a desired direction. Thus, a width of each back bus bar **152** may be greater than a width of each back electrode **151**.

The back bus bars **152** are positioned on the same level layer as the back electrodes **151** and are electrically and physically connected to the back electrodes **151** at crossings of the back electrodes **151** and the back bus bars **152**.

Thus, the back electrode part **150** has a lattice shape on the back surface of the substrate **110** in the same manner as the front electrode part **140**.

The back electrodes **151** and the back bus bars **152** may contain the same conductive material, for example, silver (Ag) as the front electrodes **141** and the front bus bars **142**. Alternatively, the back electrode part **150** may be formed of a material different from the front electrode part **140**, and the back electrodes **151** may be formed of a material different from the back bus bars **152**.

12

As described above, in the embodiment of the invention, the back surface field regions **172** are positioned under the back electrodes **151** and the back bus bars **152** and extend along the back electrodes **151** and the back bus bars **152**. Hence, the back surface field regions **172** are selectively or locally positioned at the back surface of the substrate **110** and have a lattice shape in the same manner as the back electrode part **150**. Thus, as described above, a non-formation portion of the back surface field regions **172** exists at the back surface of the substrate **110**.

In the embodiment of the invention, the number of front electrode **141**, which are positioned on the front surface of the substrate **110** and receive the most of light, is less than the number of back electrode **151**, which are positioned on the back surface of the substrate **110** and receive a smaller amount of light than the front surface of the substrate **110**. Thus, a distance between the two adjacent front electrodes **141** is greater than a distance between the two adjacent back electrodes **151**.

As described above, because the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** contain a metal material such as silver (Ag), the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** do not transmit light.

Because the distance between the front electrodes **141** is greater than the distance between the back electrodes **151**, a reduction in an incident area of light at the front surface of the substrate **110** is reduced or prevented by the arrangement of the front electrodes **141**. Hence, an amount of light incident on the front surface of the substrate **110** increases.

In another embodiment, the front bus bars **142**, the back bus bars **152**, or both may be omitted if needed or desired.

In the embodiment of the invention, at least one of the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** may be formed using a plating method.

When at least one of the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** is formed using the plating method, at least one of the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** may have a single-layered structure as in the embodiment of the invention. Alternatively, at least one of the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** may have a multi-layered structure such as a double-layered structure and a triple-layered structure. When at least one of the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** formed using the plating method has the single-layered structure, at least one of the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** may be formed of silver (Ag).

When at least one of the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** formed using the plating method has the double-layered structure, a lower layer (or a first layer), which abuts on the emitter region **121** (i.e., a second conductive type region of the substrate **110**) or abuts on the back surface field regions **172** (i.e., a heavily doped region of the substrate **110** doped with impurities of the first conductive type), may be formed of nickel (Ni), and an upper layer (or a second layer) on the lower layer may be formed of silver (Ag).

When at least one of the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** formed using the plating method has the triple-layered structure, a lower layer (or a first layer) abutting on the emitter region **121** or the back surface field regions **172** may be formed of nickel (Ni), a middle layer (or a second layer) on the lower layer may be formed of copper (Cu), and an upper layer (or a third layer) on the middle layer may be formed of silver (Ag) or tin (Sn).

When at least one of the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** formed using the plating method has the double-layered structure, a thickness of the lower layer may be about 0.5 μm to 1 μm , and a thickness of the upper

13

layer may be about 5 μm to 10 μm . When at least one of the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** formed using the plating method has the triple-layered structure, each of the lower layer and the upper layer may have a thickness of about 0.5 μm to 1 μm , and a thickness of the middle layer may be about 5 μm to 10 μm .

In this instance, the lower layer is to reduce a contact resistance between the lower layer and the emitter region **121** or the back surface field regions **172** abutting on the lower layer, and is to improve contact characteristics. The middle layer may be formed of a relatively inexpensive material with good conductivity, for example, copper (Cu) in consideration of cost reduction. If the middle layer is formed of copper (Cu), the lower layer underlying the middle layer may prevent copper (Cu), which is smoothly bonded to silicon (Si), from serving as an impurity region, which is penetrated (absorbed) in the emitter region **121** or the back surface field regions **172** formed of silicon (Si) to thereby reduce or prevent the movement of carriers.

The upper layer prevents the oxidation of the layer (for example, the lower layer or the middle layer) underlying the upper layer and improves an adhesive strength between the layer (for example, the lower layer or the middle layer) and a conductive film, for example, a ribbon positioned on the upper layer.

As described above, at least one of the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** formed using the plating method may have the double-layered structure or the triple-layered structure, and the lower layer may be formed of nickel (Ni). In this instance, nickel silicide compounds exist between the lower layer and the emitter region **121** or between the lower layer and the back surface field regions **172** because of a bond between nickel (Ni) and silicon (Si) of the emitter region **121** (i.e., the second conductive type region of the substrate **110**) or a bond between nickel (Ni) and silicon (Si) of the back surface field regions **172** (i.e., the heavily doped region of the substrate **110** doped with impurities of the first conductive type).

Alternatively, at least one of the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** may be formed through a screen printing method using an Ag paste containing a glass fit or an Al paste containing the glass frit. In this instance, the glass frit may pass through the anti-reflection layer **130** or the passivation layer **190** and may abut on the emitter region **121** or the back surface field regions **172**.

Accordingly, at least one of components of the glass frit is detected in a contact portion between the front electrode part **140** and the emitter region **121** or a contact portion between the back electrode part **150** and the back surface field regions **172**. For example, at least one of lead (Pb)-based material such as PbO, bismuth (Bi)-based material such as Bi₂O₃, aluminum (Al)-based material such as Al₂O₃, boron (B)-based material such as B₂O₃, tin (Sn)-based material, zinc (Zn)-based material such as ZnO, titanium (Ti)-based material such as TiO, and phosphorus (P)-based material such as P₂O₅ contained in the glass frit may be detected.

On the other hand, when at least one of the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** is formed using the plating method, the component of the glass fit is not detected between the substrate **110** (i.e., the emitter region **121**) and the front electrode part **140** including the front electrodes **141** and the front bus bars **142** and between the substrate **110** (i.e., the back surface field regions **172**) and the back electrode part **150** including the back electrodes **151** and the back bus bars **152**.

As described above, when at least one of the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** has the multi-layered

14

structure, the lower layer, the middle layer, and the upper layer are sequentially formed using the plating method to have a desired thickness.

In the embodiment of the invention, the number of front electrodes **141**, the number of front bus bars **142**, the number of back electrodes **151**, and the number of back bus bars **152** may vary, if desired or necessary.

Each front bus bar **142** and each back bus bar **152** respectively collect carriers from the emitter region **121** and the back surface field regions **172**, and also respectively output carriers collected by the front electrodes **141** and carriers collected by the back electrodes **151** to the external device.

In another embodiment, at least one of the front bus bar **142** and the back bus bar **152** may be positioned directly on at least one of the anti-reflection layer **130** and the passivation layer **190** and may abut on at least one of the anti-reflection layer **130** and the passivation layer **190**.

As described above, because each of the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110** has the first and second textured surfaces, a surface area of the substrate **110** increases.

Hence, an area of the emitter region **121** contacting each front electrode **141** and an area of the back surface field region **172** contacting each back electrode **151** increase. Therefore, even if a width W11 of each front electrode **141** and a width W12 of each back electrode **151** decrease, a contact area between the emitter region **121** and the front electrode **141** and a contact area between the back surface field region **172** and the back electrode **151** may not decrease.

As a result, even if the width W11 of each front electrode **141** and the width W12 of each back electrode **151** decrease, an amount of carriers moving from the emitter region **121** to the front electrodes **141** and an amount of carriers moving from the back surface field regions **172** to the back electrodes **151** may not decrease.

In the embodiment of the invention, the width W11 of each front electrode **141** and the width W12 of each back electrode **151** may be about 40 μm to 50 μm . The widths W11 and W12 are much less than a width (of about 60 μm to 100 μm) of electrodes of a comparative example.

As described above, because formation areas of the front electrodes **141** and the back electrodes **151** to prevent or reduce the incidence of light at the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110** are reduced, an amount of light incident on the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110** increases.

However, a moving distance of carriers moving to the front electrodes **141** along the emitter region **121** and a moving distance of carriers moving to the back electrodes **151** along the back surface field regions **172** increase because of the first and second textured surfaces of the substrate **110**.

Accordingly, in the embodiment of the invention, a distance D11 between the two adjacent front electrodes **141** and a distance D12 between the two adjacent back electrodes **151** may decrease, so as to compensate for an increase in the moving distance of carriers resulting from an increase in a surface area of the emitter region **121** and a surface area of the back surface field regions **172**. For example, the distance D11 between the two adjacent front electrodes **141** and the distance D12 between the two adjacent back electrodes **151** may be equal to or greater than about 1.5 mm and less than about 2.0 mm.

As described above, because the width W11 of each front electrode **141** and the width W12 of each back electrode **151** decrease, an incident area of light at the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110** does not decrease even if the distances D11 and D12 increase.

15

An operation of the solar cell having the above-described structure is described below.

When light irradiated to the solar cell is incident on the substrate **110** and at least one of the emitter region **121** and the back surface field region **172**, each of which is the semiconductor part, through at least one of the anti-reflection layer **130** and the passivation layer **190**, electrons and holes are generated in the substrate **110** by light energy produced based on the incident light. In this instance, because a reflection loss of the light incident on the substrate **110** is reduced by the first and second textured surfaces of the substrate **110**, the anti-reflection layer **130**, and the passivation layer **190**, an amount of light incident on the substrate **110** increases.

The electrons move to the n-type semiconductor part (for example, the substrate **110**) and the holes move to the p-type semiconductor part (for example, the emitter region **121**) by the p-n junction of the substrate **110** and the emitter region **121**.

The holes moving to the emitter region **121** are collected by the front electrodes **141** and the front bus bars **142** and then move along the front bus bars **142**. The electrons moving to the substrate **110** pass through the back surface field regions **172**, are collected by the back electrodes **151** and the back bus bars **152**, and move along the back bus bars **152**. When the front bus bars **142** are connected to the back bus bars **152** using electric wires such as a conductive film, current flows therein to thereby enable use of the current for electric power.

As described above, each of the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110** has the double texturing structure including the first protrusions **11** having the size of several μm and the second protrusions **111** having the size of several hundreds of nm, the incident area of the substrate **110** increases. Further, a reflection amount of light decreases due to a reflection operation using the first and second protrusions **11** and **111**, and an amount of light incident on the substrate **110** increases.

The efficiency of the solar cell is improved by the anti-reflection effect using the refractive indexes of the anti-reflection layer **130** and the passivation layer **190**, the field passivation effect using the fixed charges, and the surface passivation effect using hydrogen (H) or oxygen (O).

A method for manufacturing the solar cell according to the embodiment of the invention is described below with reference to FIGS. 4A to 4H.

As shown in FIG. 4A, a wet etching process is performed on a front surface and a back surface of a substrate **110** of a first conductive type (for example, n-type) to form a first textured surface having a plurality of first protrusions **11** and a plurality of first depressions **12**.

The substrate **110** may be a crystalline semiconductor formed of single crystal silicon.

When the substrate **110** is formed of single crystal silicon, the first textured surface **11(12)** may be formed using an alkali solution such as isopropyl alcohol (IPA) or potassium hydroxide (KOH).

Each of the first protrusions **11** may have a pyramid shape, such as a triangular pyramid. A diameter (i.e., size) and a protruding height of each first protrusion **11** may be about 5 μm to 10 μm .

Next, as shown in FIG. 4B, after the first textured surface **11(12)** is formed, a second textured surface having a plurality of second protrusions **111** and a plurality of second depressions **112** is formed on the surface of each first protrusion **11** using a dry etching method such as a reaction ion etching (RIE) method.

A maximum diameter (i.e., size) and a protruding height of each second protrusion **111** may be about 300 nm to 600 nm.

16

In the embodiment of the invention, an etching gas used in the RIE method may be a mixture of SF_6 and Cl_2 . Other gases may be used.

After the second textured surface **111(112)** is formed, a process for removing a remainder of the surface (or a portion of a surface layer) of the substrate **110** may be additionally performed. The remainder may be removed using a dry gas (used in the dry etching method) of a process room (or chamber) used to form the second textured surface **111(112)**, instead of the use of a separate process room (or chamber). In this instance, time required in the removing process of the remainder using the dry etching method is further reduced as compared to the wet etching method.

Further, if the remainder is removed using the wet etching method, the uneven portions of the first and second textured surfaces may be deformed. However, when the remainder is removed using the dry etching method, the uneven portions of the first and second textured surfaces are not deformed, and thus changes or deviations in the reflectance of light resulting from the first and second textured surfaces are not generated.

Next, as shown in FIG. 4C, ions (hereinafter, referred to as 'first impurity ions') of first impurities of a predetermined conductive type are implanted into the front surface of the substrate **110** using an ion implantation method.

In this instance, the predetermined conductive type may be a second conductive type (for example, p-type) opposite the first conductive type of the substrate **110**. In the embodiment of the invention, the first impurities may use boron (B). Thus, the first impurity ions may be positive ions B^+ of boron (B).

More specifically, the first impurity ions of the second conductive type are implanted into the exposed front surface of the substrate **110** to form an impurity region, i.e., a first impurity region **120** of the second conductive type at the front surface of the substrate **110**.

Subsequently, ions (hereinafter, referred to as 'second impurity ions') of second impurities of a predetermined conductive type (i.e., the first conductive type) are implanted into the back surface of the substrate **110** using the ion implantation method to form a second impurity region **170** of the first conductive type at the back surface of the substrate **110**.

In the embodiment of the invention, the second impurities may use phosphorus (P). Thus, the second impurity ions may be positive ions P^+ of phosphorus (P).

A mask to implant the ions only into a desired region of each of the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110** may be used in the ion implantation process for forming the first and second impurity regions **120** and **170**.

For example, the mask positioned on the front surface of the substrate **110** may block only an edge of the front surface of the substrate **110** and may expose a remaining portion of the front surface of the substrate **110** except the edge. Further, the mask positioned on the back surface of the substrate **110** may expose only a region to form a back surface field region and may block a remaining portion of the back surface of the substrate **110**.

Acceleration energy of ions for implanting the first and second impurity ions into the substrate **110** may be about 1 keV to 20 keV. An implantation depth of ions may be determined depending on the acceleration energy.

Thus, acceleration energy for the first impurity region **120** may be different from acceleration energy for the second impurity region **170**. For example, acceleration energy used to implant ions of p-type impurities into the substrate **110** may be greater than acceleration energy used to implant ions of n-type impurities into the substrate **110**.

In the embodiment of the invention, formation order of the first impurity region **120** and the second impurity region **170**

may vary. The first impurity region **120** and the second impurity region **170** may be formed in the same chamber or respective chambers.

Next, as shown in FIG. 4D, after the first and second impurity regions **120** and **170** are formed, a thermal process is performed on the substrate **110** having the first and second impurity regions **120** and **170** in an atmosphere of nitrogen (N_2) or oxygen (O_2). Thus, the first and second impurity regions **120** and **170** are completely activated. Hence, the first impurity region **120** forms an emitter region **121** positioned at the front surface of the substrate **110**, and thus the emitter region **121** and the substrate **110** form a p-n junction. Further, the second impurity region **170** forms a plurality of back surface field regions **172** positioned at the back surface of the substrate **110**.

In other words, an implantation state of the p-type and n-type impurity ions of the first and second impurity regions **120** and **170** changes from an interstitial state to a substitutional state because of the activation of the first and second impurity regions **120** and **170** through the thermal process. Hence, silicon and the p-type and n-type impurity ions are rearranged. As a result, the first and second impurity regions **120** and **170** respectively serve as the p-type emitter region **121** and the n-type back surface field regions **172**.

Solubility of boron (B) used to form the emitter region **121** is less than solubility of phosphorus (P) used to form the back surface field regions **172**. Therefore, an activation temperature of the first and second impurity regions **120** and **170** is determined based on the first impurity region **120**, so as to stably activate the first impurity region **120**.

The activation temperature of the first and second impurity regions **120** and **170** may be about 1,000° C. to 2,000° C., and time required in the thermal process may be about 20 minutes to 60 minutes.

In the embodiment of the invention, because the activation process is performed at a high temperature equal to or higher than about 1,000° C. capable of stably activating boron (B), the first impurity region **120** as well as the second impurity region **170** are stably activated. Hence, the emitter region **121** and the back surface field regions **172** are smoothly formed.

Furthermore, because the thermal process is performed at the high temperature equal to or higher than about 1,000° C., a damaged portion generated in the ion implantation process for the first and second impurity regions **120** and **170** is recrystallized. Hence, the damaged portion generated in the ion implantation process is recovered without a separate damage removal process using the wet etching method, etc.

When the second textured surface **111(112)** is formed using the RIE method, a damaged portion of the surface of the substrate **110** is generated because of plasma generated in the process. However, as described above, the damaged portion is recovered by the recrystallization of silicon (Si) through the thermal process performed at the high temperature equal to or higher than about 1,000° C. Therefore, a separate damage removal process using the wet etching method, etc., is not necessary.

Because of these reasons, the removing process of the remainder, which may be performed after the formation of the first and second textured surfaces, may be omitted.

In the embodiment of the invention, the damaged portion, which is formed in the surface of the substrate **110** (or the emitter region **121**) in the RIE process and the ion implantation process, is recovered by the activation process of the first impurity region **120** at the high temperature (equal to or higher than about 1,000° C.) for the p-type emitter region **121**. Hence, the reflectance of light of a short wavelength band incident on the emitter region **121** does not increase.

Next, as shown in FIG. 4E, a first passivation layer **191** formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride ($SiNx:H$) is formed on the back surface of the substrate **110**. The first passivation layer **191** may be formed using a deposition method such as a plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) method. In the embodiment of the invention, the first passivation layer **191** may have a thickness of about 70 nm to 100 nm.

Next, as shown in FIG. 4F, layers formed of aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3) are respectively formed on the emitter region **121** positioned at the front surface of the substrate **110** and the first passivation layer **191** positioned on the back surface of the substrate **110** to form a first anti-reflection layer **131** on the emitter region **121** and a second passivation layer **192** on the first passivation layer **191**.

The aluminum oxide layers may be formed using the PECVD method, an atomic layer deposition (ALD) method, etc.

When the aluminum oxide layer is formed using the PECVD method, the layer is stacked only in a portion exposed by a process gas. Therefore, the first anti-reflection layer **131** and the second passivation layer **192**, each of which is formed of aluminum oxide, are respectively formed on the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110** through the separate PECVD method.

In this instance, the first anti-reflection layer **131** and the second passivation layer **192** respectively positioned on the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110** may be formed under the same process conditions to thereby have the same characteristics. Alternatively, the first anti-reflection layer **131** and the second passivation layer **192** may be formed under different process conditions to thereby have different characteristics.

However, when the aluminum oxide layers are formed using the ALD method, the aluminum oxide layers may be formed on the front surface, the back surface, and the lateral surface of the substrate **110** through one stacking process. Thus, the aluminum oxide layers are simultaneously formed on the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110** through one ALD process to form the first anti-reflection layer **131** and the second passivation layer **192**.

Because the first anti-reflection layer **131** and the second passivation layer **192** respectively positioned on the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110** are formed under the same process conditions, the first anti-reflection layer **131** and the second passivation layer **192** have the same characteristics.

In the embodiment of the invention, the first anti-reflection layer **131** and the second passivation layer **192** may have a thickness of about 5 nm to 15 nm.

Hence, a passivation layer **190** including the first and second passivation layers **191** and **192** is formed on the back surface of the substrate **110**.

Next, as shown in FIG. 4G, a second anti-reflection layer **132** formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride ($SiNx:H$) is formed on the first anti-reflection layer **131** using the PECVD method at a thickness of about 70 nm to 100 nm. Hence, an anti-reflection layer **130** including the first and second anti-reflection layers **131** and **132** is formed.

As described above, the anti-reflection layer **130** including the first anti-reflection layer **131** formed of aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3) and the second anti-reflection layer **132** formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride ($SiNx:H$) is formed on the front surface of the substrate **110**, and the passivation layer **190** including the first passivation layer **191** formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride ($SiNx:H$) and the second passivation layer **192** formed of aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3) is formed on the

19

back surface of the substrate **110**. Afterward, a front electrode part **140** including a plurality of front electrodes **141** and a plurality of front bus bars **142**, which pass through the anti-reflection layer **130** and abut on the emitter region **121** underlying the anti-reflection layer **130**, is formed. Further, a back electrode part **150** including a plurality of back electrodes **151** and a plurality of back bus bars **152**, which pass through the passivation layer **190** and abut on the back surface field regions **172** underlying the passivation layer **190**, is formed. As a result, the solar cell shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 is completed.

An example of a method for forming the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** is described with reference to FIG. 4H.

For example, as shown in FIG. 4H, a laser beam is selectively irradiated onto each of the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110** to form a plurality of first and second openings **181** and **182** at a location to form the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150**.

The plurality of first openings **181** pass through the anti-reflection layer **130** and expose the emitter region **121** underlying the opened portions of the anti-reflection layer **130**. The plurality of second openings **182** pass through the passivation layer **190** and expose the back surface field regions **172** underlying the opened portions of the passivation layer **190**.

The plurality of first openings **181** are used to form the plurality of front electrodes **141** and the plurality of front bus bars **142**. In this instance, a width of the first opening **181** for each front electrode **141** is less than a width of the first opening **181** for each front bus bar **142**.

The plurality of second openings **182** are used to form the plurality of back electrodes **151** and the plurality of back bus bars **152**. In this instance, a width of the second opening **182** for each back electrode **151** is less than a width of the second opening **182** for each back bus bar **152**.

The number of first openings **181** for the front electrodes **141** may be less than the number of second openings **182** for the back electrodes **151**. Hence, a distance between the two adjacent first openings **181** may be greater than a distance between the two adjacent second openings **182**.

The first openings **181** for the front bus bars **142** may be positioned opposite the second openings **182** for the back bus bars **152** with the substrate **110** between them.

Subsequently, the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** are respectively formed on the emitter region **121** and the back surface field regions **172** exposed by the first and second openings **181** and **182** using an electroplating method or an electroless plating method.

In another embodiment, the front electrodes **141**, the front bus bars **142**, the back electrodes **151**, and the back bus bars **152** may be formed by coating a metal paste containing a metal material such as silver (Ag) on the first and second openings **181** and **182** using a screen printing method, etc., and then performing a thermal process on the metal paste at a desired temperature.

In another embodiment, the front electrodes **141**, the front bus bars **142**, the back electrodes **151**, and the back bus bars **152** may be formed by coating and drying a metal paste containing at least one of silver (Ag) and aluminum (Al) on the anti-reflection layer **130** and the passivation layer **190** and then performing a thermal process on the metal paste. Hence, the front electrode part **140** including the front electrodes **141** and the front bus bars **142** may be formed on the emitter region **121**, and the back electrode part **150** including the back electrodes **151** and the back bus bars **152** may be formed on the back surface field regions **172**.

Because the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** have to partially pass through the anti-reflection

20

layer **130** and the passivation layer **190**, respectively, the metal paste may contain an etchant, for example, PbO for etching the anti-reflection layer **130** and the passivation layer **190**. An amount and a kind of the etchant contained in the metal paste may be determined depending on a thickness or a material of the anti-reflection layer **130** and the passivation layer **190**.

When the thermal process is performed on the metal paste coated on the anti-reflection layer **130** and the passivation layer **190**, the metal paste passes through the anti-reflection layer **130** and the passivation layer **190** and is chemically bonded to the emitter region **121** and the back surface field regions **172** underlying the anti-reflection layer **130** and the passivation layer **190**. Hence, the front electrode part **140** electrically and physically connected to the emitter region **121** and the back electrode part **150** electrically and physically connected to the back surface field regions **172** are formed.

When at least one of the anti-reflection layer **130** and the passivation layer **190** is omitted, at least one of the front electrode part **140** and the back electrode part **150** may not contain the etchant because it does not need to pass through the omitted component (i.e., at least one of the anti-reflection layer **130** and the passivation layer **190**).

When at least one of the front bus bar **142** and the back bus bar **152** is positioned directly on the anti-reflection layer **130** or the passivation layer **190**, at least one of the front bus bar **142** and the back bus bar **152** may not contain the etchant because it does not need to pass through the anti-reflection layer **130** or the passivation layer **190**. Alternatively, at least one of the front bus bar **142** and the back bus bar **152** may contain a small amount of the etchant which may not pass through the anti-reflection layer **130** or the passivation layer **190**.

In this instance, at least one of the front electrode **141**, the front bus bar **142**, the back electrode **151**, and the back bus bar **152** may be formed of a material different from other components.

Another example of a solar cell according to an example embodiment of the invention is described below with reference to FIG. 5.

Structures and components identical or equivalent to those described in the solar cell shown in FIGS. 1 to 3 are designated with the same reference numerals, and a further description may be briefly made or may be entirely omitted.

Unlike the solar cell shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, a solar cell shown in FIG. 5 further includes hydrogenated silicon oxide (SiOx:H) layers on hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H) layers respectively positioned on a front surface and a back surface of a substrate **110**.

More specifically, an anti-reflection layer **130a** positioned on the front surface of the substrate **110** further includes a third anti-reflection layer **133**, which is positioned directly on a second anti-reflection layer **132** and is formed of hydrogenated silicon oxide (SiOx:H), in addition to a first anti-reflection layer **131** formed of aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃) and the second anti-reflection layer **132** formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H). Hence, the anti-reflection layer **130a** has a triple-layered structure including the layers **131** to **133**.

Further, a passivation layer **190a** positioned on the back surface of the substrate **110** includes a first passivation layer **191** formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H), a second passivation layer **192a**, which is positioned directly on the first passivation layer **191** and is formed of hydrogenated silicon oxide (SiOx:H), and a third passivation layer **193**, which is positioned directly on the second passivation layer **192a** and is formed of aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃).

21

In other words, the solar cell shown in FIG. 5 further includes the hydrogenated silicon oxide layer between the hydrogenated silicon nitride layer and the aluminum oxide layer, unlike the solar cell shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. Thus, the passivation layer 190a has a triple-layered structure including the layers 191, 192a, and 193.

As described above, the hydrogenated silicon oxide layers 133 and 192a positioned directly on the hydrogenated silicon nitride layers 132 and 191 prevent hydrogen (H), which is contained in the hydrogenated silicon nitride layers 132 and 191 and performs a surface passivation function, from moving in a direction opposite the substrate 110. Thus, the hydrogenated silicon oxide layers 133 and 192a included in the anti-reflection layer 130a and the passivation layer 190a serve as capping layers of the hydrogenated silicon nitride layers 132 and 191 underlying the hydrogenated silicon oxide layers 133 and 192a.

The hydrogenated silicon oxide layers 133 and 192a contain hydrogen (H) capable of recovering a defect. Hence, hydrogen (H) contained in the hydrogenated silicon oxide layers 133 and 192a moves to the surface of the substrate 110 and performs the surface passivation function.

Accordingly, a surface passivation effect is further improved by the hydrogenated silicon oxide layers 133 and 192a respectively positioned on the front surface and the back surface of the substrate 110.

The hydrogenated silicon oxide layers 133 and 192a are formed using a PECVD method. Unlike the formation order of the anti-reflection layer 130 and the passivation layer 190 in the solar cell shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the anti-reflection layer 130a and the passivation layer 190a are formed in the following formation order.

For example, after the first passivation layer 191 formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H) is formed on the back surface of the substrate 110 using the PECVD method, the second passivation layer 192a formed of hydrogenated silicon oxide (SiOx:H) is formed on the first passivation layer 191 using the PECVD method. Then, the third passivation layer 193 and the first anti-reflection layer 131, each of which is formed of aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃), are simultaneously formed on the second passivation layer 192a and the emitter region 121 positioned at the front surface of the substrate 110 using an ALD method, respectively. Then, the second anti-reflection layer 132 formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H) and the third anti-reflection layer 133 formed of hydrogenated silicon oxide (SiOx:H) are sequentially formed on the first anti-reflection layer 131 positioned on the front surface of the substrate 110 using the PECVD method.

The solar cell shown in FIG. 5 is manufactured through the manufacturing processes illustrated in FIGS. 4A to 4F, except the formation method and the formation order of the anti-reflection layer 130a and the passivation layer 190a.

The third anti-reflection layer 133 and the second passivation layer 192a, each of which is formed of hydrogenated silicon oxide (SiOx:H) may have a thickness of about 50 nm to 100 nm and a refractive index of about 1.5.

As described above, the second anti-reflection layer 132 and the first passivation layer 191 formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride (SiNx:H) are respectively capped by the third anti-reflection layer 133 and the second passivation layer 192a formed of hydrogenated silicon oxide (SiOx:H). Hence, the passivation function performed by the second anti-reflection layer 132 and the first passivation layer 191 is further improved. Further, the passivation effect of the solar cell shown in FIG. 5 is further improved because of the passivation function performed by the third anti-reflection layer 133 and the second passivation layer 192a.

22

Because the anti-reflection layer 130a and the passivation layer 190a further include the third anti-reflection layer 133 and the second passivation layer 192a formed of hydrogenated silicon oxide (SiOx:H), the anti-reflection effect at the front surface and the back surface of the substrate 110 is improved. Hence, an amount of light incident on the substrate 110 increases, and an amount of electric current output from the solar cell increases.

Other examples of the solar cell shown in FIGS. 1 to 3 and the solar cell shown in FIG. 5 are described below with reference to FIGS. 6 and 7.

FIG. 6 illustrates another example of the solar cell shown in FIGS. 1 to 3, and FIG. 7 illustrates another example of the solar cell shown in FIG. 5.

The solar cells shown in FIGS. 6 and 7 further include a silicon oxide (SiOx) layer 180 between an emitter region 121 and an anti-reflection layer 130 (130a) and between a back surface of a substrate 110 and a first passivation layer 191, unlike the solar cell shown in FIGS. 1 to 3 and the solar cell shown in FIG. 5.

The solar cells shown in FIGS. 6 and 7 substantially have the same configuration as the solar cell shown in FIGS. 1 to 3 and the solar cell shown in FIG. 5, except the silicon oxide layer 180, respectively.

As shown in FIGS. 6 and 7, the silicon oxide layer 180 is positioned directly on the emitter region 121 positioned at a front surface of the substrate 110 and directly on the back surface of the substrate 110. The anti-reflection layer 130 (130a) and a passivation layer 190 (190a) are positioned directly on the silicon oxide layer 180.

The silicon oxide layer 180 is an oxide layer deliberately formed by immersing the substrate 110 in a desired chemical solution. A thickness of the silicon oxide layer 180 may be about 2 nm to 3 nm.

In the method for manufacturing the solar cell illustrated in FIGS. 4A to 4F, after the emitter region 121 is formed, the silicon oxide layer 180 is formed before forming the anti-reflection layer 130 and the passivation layer 190.

The silicon oxide layer 180 is formed by immersing the substrate 110 in a nitric acid (HNO₃) solution having a hydrogen ion concentration (pH) of about 2 to 4 at a process temperature of the normal temperature to about 70° C. for about 5 minutes to 30 minutes. A concentration of HNO₃ in the HNO₃ solution, i.e., an amount of HNO₃ in the HNO₃ solution may be about 65% to 70%.

In the process for forming the anti-reflection layer 130 (130a) and the passivation layer 190 (190a) on the emitter region 121 and the back surface field regions 172, a natural oxide layer generated by oxygen existing in the atmosphere or the process room is generally formed directly on the emitter region 121. The natural oxide layer formed thus is unstably bonded to silicon existing in the substrate 110 or the emitter region 121, thereby generating a defect. In embodiments of the invention, the natural oxide layer is one that is formed spontaneously and unintentionally.

When the layer such as the aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃) layer is formed on the natural oxide layer, water (H₂O) is generated by the bond between hydrogen (H) contained in a process material for the layer formation and the natural oxide layer having the unstable bond. Further, a blistering phenomenon such as a spot resulting from the formation of a hydrogen molecule is generated.

However, in the embodiment of the invention, the silicon oxide layer 180 having the characteristics better than the natural oxide layer is formed directly on each of the front surface and the back surface of the substrate 110 using the

23

separate PECVD method. Therefore, the frequency of problem generated by a bond of hydrogen and oxygen is greatly reduced.

Oxygen contained in the silicon oxide layer **180** performs the passivation function for converting the bonds existing at the surface of the substrate **110** into stable bonds, thereby further improving the surface passivation effect.

As shown in FIGS. **6** and **7**, the silicon oxide layer **180** is formed on both the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110**. In another embodiment, the silicon oxide layer **180** may be formed on only one of the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110**.

As described above, the silicon oxide layer **180** is formed so as to improve the surface passivation effect at the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110** and to reduce the problem resulting from the natural oxide layer. Therefore, the silicon oxide layer **180** is not required to be thick and may have a thickness of about 2 nm to 3 nm.

The embodiment of the invention was described based on a bifacial solar cell, in which light is incident on both the front surface and the back surface of the substrate **110**. The embodiment of the invention may be applied to other kinds of solar cells, for example, other kinds of solar cells using n-type single crystal silicon.

Although embodiments have been described with reference to a number of illustrative embodiments thereof, it should be understood that numerous other modifications and embodiments can be devised by those skilled in the art that will fall within the scope of the principles of this disclosure. More particularly, various variations and modifications are possible in the component parts and/or arrangements of the subject combination arrangement within the scope of the disclosure, the drawings and the appended claims. In addition to variations and modifications in the component parts and/or arrangements, alternative uses will also be apparent to those skilled in the art.

What is claimed is:

1. A solar cell comprising:

a substrate formed of an n-type crystalline semiconductor; an emitter region of a p-type positioned at a first surface of the substrate;

an anti-reflection layer positioned on the first surface of the substrate;

a passivation layer positioned on a second surface which is opposite of the first surface of the substrate;

a first electrode which is positioned on the first surface of the substrate and is connected to the emitter region; and a second electrode which is positioned on the second surface of the substrate and is connected to the substrate, wherein the anti-reflection layer includes a first anti-reflection layer formed of aluminum oxide,

a second anti-reflection layer which is positioned directly on the first anti-reflection layer and is formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride, and

24

a third anti-reflection layer which is positioned directly on the second anti-reflection layer and is formed of hydrogenated silicon oxide,

wherein the passivation layer includes a first passivation layer formed of hydrogenated silicon nitride,

a second passivation layer which is positioned directly on the first passivation layer and is formed of hydrogenated silicon oxide, and

a third passivation layer which is positioned directly on the second passivation layer and is formed of aluminum oxide,

wherein the emitter region has a first textured surface including a plurality of first protrusions each having a protruding height and a maximum diameter which are within a range of about 5 μm to 10 μm , and

wherein each of the plurality of first protrusions has a second textured surface including a plurality of second protrusions each having a protruding height and a maximum diameter which are within a range of about 300 nm to 600 nm.

2. The solar cell of claim **1**, wherein the first anti-reflection layer has a thickness of about 5 nm to 15 nm.

3. The solar cell of claim **2**, wherein each of the second anti-reflection layer and the first passivation layer has a thickness of about 70 nm to 100 nm.

4. The solar cell of claim **1**, wherein the second passivation layer has a thickness of about 50 nm to 100 nm.

5. The solar cell of claim **1**, further comprising a silicon oxide layer positioned between the second surface of the substrate and the first passivation layer.

6. The solar cell of claim **5**, wherein the silicon oxide layer has a thickness of about 2 nm to 3 nm.

7. The solar cell of claim **1**, wherein the first surface and the second surface of the substrate are incident surfaces on which light is incident.

8. The solar cell of claim **1**, wherein the hydrogenated silicon oxide of the third anti-reflective layer and the second passivation layer each has a thickness of about 50 nm to 100 nm.

9. The solar cell of claim **1**, further comprising a silicon oxide layer positioned between the emitter region and the first anti-reflection layer.

10. The solar cell of claim **9**, wherein the silicon oxide layer has a thickness of about 2 nm to 3 nm.

11. The solar cell of claim **1**, wherein acicular ends of the plurality of second protrusions point in a parallel direction as vertices of the plurality of first protrusions.

12. The solar cell of claim **1**, wherein the first and second textured surfaces are also formed on the second surface of the substrate.

13. The solar cell of claim **1**, wherein each of the plurality of second protrusions has an acicular end, and acicular ends of adjacent second protrusions are connected by serrated edges.

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